

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 190  
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to express the gratitude and support of the Tennessee General Assembly for the men and women of the United States Military within this nation and deployed throughout the world.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly, along with the citizens of Tennessee and our nation, are keenly aware of the courage and sacrifices of the hundreds of thousands of men and women serving in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard who serve both at home and across the globe to protect the lives, liberty and national interests of the United States; and

WHEREAS, throughout our common history, the sacrifices of those who put aside their personal needs and concerns to meet threats to our nation and our way of life have inspired deep pride in and support for those career military personnel and citizen soldiers who have answered the call to service; and

WHEREAS, in today's post cold war world, this nation projects its might globally, not as an aggressor, but as a bulwark against international terrorism which threatens worldwide destabilization through cruel acts against civilians as well as against military and economic

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targets; the almost 1,400,000 Americans under arms in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard are deployed both within the territories of the United States and across the world, meeting treaty obligations, protecting national interests, participating in peace keeping operations and keeping aggressive elements in check; and

WHEREAS, since the terrorist attack on our country on September 11, 2001, this nation has vigorously prosecuted an international war against terrorism, successfully routing Al-Qaida terrorists and their Taliban hosts from their base of power in Afghanistan; U.S. and allied forces remain in that country to pursue terrorist remnants and assist in providing stability for the rebuilding of that war-torn nation at considerable risk of life and limb; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to disarm the Iraqi regime of the dictator, Saddam Hussain, of its weapons of mass destruction, once cruelly used against its neighbors and elements of its own population, almost 250,000 fighting men and women have been deployed in the Persian Gulf region. As of March 19, 2003, some 212,617 reserve and National Guard personnel, including many from Tennessee, have been deployed in support of this effort; and

WHEREAS, these intrepid and courageous men and women, both career military and reservists and National Guard personnel, are unselfishly sacrificing their personal lives and safety, putting their individual goals on hold, and leaving family and home behind to preserve our own lives and liberty; and

WHEREAS, realizing that the war on terror is not confined to traditional localized theaters of conflict, we recognize that our military forces not only in the Middle East, but throughout the world and within our national territory, are not only guardians of our way of life, but also targets for those who would seek to harm and demoralize us; and

WHEREAS, we extend our heartfelt support to the families of our servicemen and women on active duty throughout the world, and offer our prayers along with theirs for the safety of their loved ones; we especially reserve a place in our hearts for those deployed in the Persian

Gulf region on the eve of battle, conscious of the perils that they face with such resolution and courage; and

WHEREAS, all our words and other expressions of appreciation are inadequate to fully convey our gratitude to the men and women of our Armed Forces who are risking all to preserve the hard won freedoms that we consider an inseparable part of our heritage as Americans and to free the world from the oppression of terrorist zealotry; it is altogether fitting and appropriate that we should honor to the best of our ability, their dauntless courage and commitment to the cause of liberty; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby express our unwavering support for and express our profound pride in the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, from our own State of Tennessee and across this nation as they stand resolutely in defense of our State, our nation and the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to them our sincere hope for a swift, complete and just resolution to each individual and unit mission, especially remembering those poised for conflict in the Middle East, and offer our fervent prayers for the safe return to home and family for each serviceman and servicewoman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.